

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer monitor for monitoring the execution of software products on a computer, the monitor comprising:

5 monitoring software that monitors the execution of load modules on a computer; and

a reducer that contemporaneously converts data records reflecting the execution of the load modules to data records which reflect the usage of products on the computer.

2. The computer monitor of claim 1, in which the reducer includes condenser software that resolves the execution of load modules based on a criteria comprising one or more of: job; job-step; user IDs; entry-gate 5 module; time periods; product identities; accounting fields and module name patterns.

3. The computer monitor of claim 2, in which the criteria comprises product identities.

4. The computer monitor of claim 2, in which the criteria comprises one or more of: user name, system user ID, job name, security group name and process ID.

5. The computer monitor of claim 1, further including a knowledge base listing an inventory of load modules in the computer and the reducer including software which reduces the accumulation of load module data by reference to one or more of: job step, or product-identified inventory, or an extract from job steps and product-identified inventory.

6. The computer monitor of claim 1, in which the reducer operates to retain only product-level information.

7. The computer monitor of claim 6, in which the product-level information is further classified in accordance with product/library criteria.

8. The computer monitor of claim 1, in which the reducer operates to retain only module usage information in accordance with a unit of work.

9. The computer monitor of claim 1, in which the reducer includes condensing software which condenses usage information according to a user selectable time interval.

10. The computer monitor of claim 1, in which the reducer contains software that instructs the reducer to avoid applying its reduction function to predetermined software products.

11. The computer monitor of claim 1, in which the reducer contains software that instructs the reducer to discard usage information pertaining to predetermined software products.

12. The computer monitor of claim 1, in which the reducer contains software that instructs the reducer to apply its reduction function to predetermined software products only.

13. The computer monitor of claim 1, in which the reducer provides a filtering function which is based on one or more parameters selected from the group: accounting fields, module names, module name patterns, time of day, day of week and date.

14. The computer monitoring of claim 1, in which the reducer maintains a list of entry gate modules and only retains data which reflects the usage of entry gate modules.

15. The computer monitor of claim 1, in which the reducer maintains a list of non-entry gate load modules and includes software which discards only usage information pertaining to non-entry gate load modules.

16. The computer monitor of claim 2, in which the reducer comprises a separate program that processes data produced and recorded on media by the monitor, to create the condensed usage database.

17. The computer monitor of claim 1, in which the reducer comprises a portion of the monitor and operates by processing data before the monitor records detailed data to a computer storage medium for longer than temporary recording.

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18. The computer monitor of claim 1, in which the monitor runs on multiple logical partitions and the reducer operates on data produced by multiple monitors running on the different logical partitions.

19. The computer monitor of claim 1, further comprising an interface for transferring information produced by the reducer to a PC-type computer which is located remotely relative to the computer being

5 monitored.

20. A method of monitoring the execution of software products on a computer and producing reduced data records reflecting such execution, the method comprising the steps of:

5 monitoring the execution of load modules on a computer;

10 providing a reducer which contemporaneously converts data records reflecting the execution of load modules to data records which reflect the usage of products on the computer.

21. The method of claim 20, further including resolving the execution of load modules based on a criteria comprising one or more of: job; job-step; user IDs; entry-gate module; time periods; product identities; 5 accounting fields and module name patterns.

22. The method of claim 21, including resolving the execution of load modules to product identities.

23. The method of claim 21, in which the criteria comprises one or more of: user name, system user ID, job name, security group name and process ID.

24. The method of claim 20, including listing an inventory of load modules in the computer in a knowledge base and reducing the accumulation of load module data by reference to one or more of: job step, work product-
5 identified inventory, or an abstract from job step and product-identified inventory.

25. The method of claim 20, including operating a reduction process that retains only product-level information.

26. The method of claim 20, including operating a reduction process that retains only module usage information resolved to units of work.

27. The method of claim 20, including condensing usage information according to a user selectable time interval.

28. The method of claim 20, including operating the reducer to avoid applying its reduction function to predetermined software products.

29. The method of claim 20, including operating the reducer to discard usage information pertaining to

predetermined software products.

30. The method of claim 20, including operating the reducer to apply its reduction function to predetermined software products only.

31. The method of claim 20, including filtering information obtained from monitoring execution of load modules based on one or more parameters selected from the group: accounting fields, modules names, module name patterns, time of day, day of week and date.

32. The method of claim 20, including maintaining a list of entry gate modules and only retaining data which reflects the usage of entry gate modules.

33. The method of claim 20, including maintaining a list of non-entry gate load modules and discarding usage information pertaining to non-entry gate modules.

34. The method of claim 20, further including providing an interface and transferring information, via said interface, produced by the reducer to a PC-type computer which is located remotely relative to the computer being monitored.

35. The computer monitor of claim 1, in which the reducer contemporaneously converts the data records in a manner which reduces the amount of data records by at least a factor of 100 to 1 over a monitoring period that is greater than at least one week.

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36. The method of claim 20, in which the reducer contemporaneously converts the data records in a manner which reduces the amount of data records by at least a factor of 100 to 1 over a monitoring period that is greater than at least one week.

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37. A computer monitor for monitoring the execution of software products on a computer, the monitor comprising:

monitoring software that monitors the execution of load modules on a computer;

5 a table that stores a list of entry-gate load modules; and

a reducer that converts data records reflecting the execution of the software products on the computer by reference to the entry-gate load modules stored in the table.

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38. The computer monitor of claim 37, in which the reducer only retains data which reflects the usage of entry-gate modules.

39. The computer monitor of claim 37, in which the reducer maintains a list of non-entry gate load modules and includes software which discards only usage information pertaining to non-entry gate load modules.

40. The computer monitor of claim 37, in which the reducer includes software for automatically determining the identity of entry-gate load modules and for storing such entry-gate load modules in the table.

41. The computer monitor of claim 40, in which the reducer includes software for counting the number of times software products are being executed, by reference to a criteria comprising one or more of: job; job-step; user IDs; entry-gate modules; time periods; product identities; accounting fields; and module name patterns.

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42. A method of monitoring the execution of software products on a computer, the method comprising the steps of:

monitoring the execution of load modules on a

5 computer;

storing a list of entry-gate load modules in a table; and

10 converting data records reflecting the execution of the software products on the computer by reference to the entry-gate load modules stored in the table.

43. The method of claim 42, including retaining data which reflects the usage of only entry-gate modules.

44. The method of claim 42, including maintaining a list of non-entry gate load modules and discarding only usage information pertaining to non-entry gate load modules.

45. The method of claim 42, including automatically determining the identity of entry-gate load modules and storing such entry-gate load modules in the table.

46. The computer monitor of claim 45, including counting the number of times software products are being executed, by reference to a criteria comprising one or more of: job; job-step; user IDs; entry-gate modules; time periods; product identities; accounting fields; and module name patterns.